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Wolverine Guard™

Camp Grayling 1913 75 1988 Diamond Jubilee

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Photo by Maj. David W. Lubbers

HATS OFF IN HONDURAS!

Air National Guardsmen from the 110th Civil Engineer Squadron, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, throw their hats in the air at the completion of their project at Palmerola Air Base, Honduras.

See pages 10 and 11

Editorial

Maj. Gen. Vernon J. Andrews

Tag Talk

It seems like I'm spending more and more time on the road these days. It's a joke around my house that I'm going to have to start communicating with Mrs. Andrews by memo. Playing along with this suggestion, I recently sent her a note inviting her to join us in Grayling for the celebration of the Camp's 75th Anniversary "Homecoming Weekend." There are all kinds of good hotels, motels, resorts, and campgrounds for a family to stay at in and around Grayling. Why not change a few words and send a copy to your spouse?

TO: Mrs. Andrews
FM: Your husband
RE: Family plans for 24-26 June 88

For almost 30 years, I have gone to Camp Grayling each summer for Annual Training. While the training has been hard, occasionally I have been able to get away to spend some time with you as well. This year the time is guaranteed — it's right in the schedule!

We are planning quite a celebration 24-26 June to observe the 75th Anniversary of Rasmus Hanson donating the land to the State of Michigan that became Camp Grayling. In my mind and heart you are as much the National Guard as I am and what success I have had in the Guard wouldn't have been possible without your support. Won't you please join me in celebrating the Camp your sacrifices have helped make possible?

If our daughters can come up, have them plan on being here Friday the 24th around noon. As you can imagine, with the crowd we're expecting, we're going to have to handle parking a bit differently than in the past. Friday we'll be closing the post, routing all traffic to shuttle lots off-post, and bussing people into camp. Since spouses are such an important part of the Guard, we're making an exception for military families. I've enclosed a pass that will let you drive right on post if you take the Military Rd. exit from I-75 and follow the signs to the special entrance and parking areas. Extra passes are available thru the Family Assistance Network.

We're going to begin the celebration around 1PM Friday with demonstrations and exhibits. At 2PM the Chief of Staff, Col. Elon Pearson, kicks off the Annual Review on the Parade Field. I know how much you enjoy the pomp and pageantry of the colors, martial music from the 126th Army Band, and the sharp formations of Michigan Guardsmen and women. This year will be the best yet.

We're giving our cooks the night off and will have a concessionaire serve a meal on the Parade Field. He'll have "good food" (chicken) and "bad food" (hot dogs and hamburgers), and beverages. We'll be charging around $6.00 per meal but, in keeping with Army tradition, we'll also have free MRE's if a soldier doesn't want to spend the money. A Grayling area band of primarily Guardsmen will perform during the dinner period.

Later, around 8PM, we've hired the country-western singer Jerry Reed to perform (he was in the "Smokey & the Bandit" movies with Burt Reynolds — but as I remember you were only watching Burt!).

Selecting the entertainment was a hard choice, considering the diverse tastes of the Guard and Grayling community (and as you know, country isn't my first choice for music). Fortunately Jerry Reed puts on quite a diverse show, and should keep everyone entertained.

Saturday you can plan on spending in Grayling shopping at their sidewalk sales or enjoying street corner performers. Also, if you missed any of the exhibits on Friday, we're going to repeat them Saturday morning.

The "homecoming weekend" concludes Sunday morning with a "Celebration of Religious Freedom." Col. Owen and the other Chaplains have gotten together with the Grayling area clergy to plan a short but particularly memorable event — even down to a Guard band and community choir.

All in all, I think the staff has put together quite a weekend. With you there, it will be complete.

You cannot live without lawyers and certainly, you cannot die without them.

— Joseph Hodges Choate
Lawyer and Diplomat

Wolverine Guard

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Editor: Maj. Michael H. Johnson

Contributors: Public Affairs Section, HQ STARC, MIARNG; 126th Public Affairs Detachment; Information Officers; Selfridge and Battle Creek Air National Guard Bases.

Gov. James J. Blanchard
Commander in Chief
Adjutant General of Michigan
Maj. Gen. Vernon J. Andrews
Assistant Adjutant General for Army
Brig. Gen. Jerome J. Mathieu Jr.
Assistant Adjutant General for Air
Brig. Gen. Arthur P. Tesner
U.S. Property and Fiscal Officer
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Michigan National Guardsman 4th Army's NCO of the Year

Sergeant First Class William H. Womer of Headquarters, 107th Supply and Services Battalion, Michigan Army National Guard, has been named as the Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year for the Active Component (AC) of Fourth United States Army for 1988.

The selection process began with each battalion in the Michigan Army National Guard picking its best NCO and sending him to brigade and group selection boards. The winner here appeared before a board at State National Guard Headquarters in Lansing and that winner, Womer, appeared before an AC NCO of the Year for 4th U.S. Army Selection Board at the Roosevelt Hotel in Cedar Springs, Iowa on 27 February 1988.

The Board was chaired by 4th Army's command sergeant major, Joseph Bossi. Sergeant First Class Womer was judged on military courtesy and appearance and asked specific questions on such military subjects as tactics, military law and history, weaponry and current events.

Sergeant First Class Womer was able to answer all of the Board's questions correctly because of his military and civilian educational backgrounds, which are impressive.

Sergeant First Class William H. Womer graduated from Central High School in South Bend, Indiana in 1959 and enrolled at North Central College with the goal of becoming a high school social studies teacher. That goal was put on hold in 1966 when he was drafted into the U.S. Army. After basic and airborne training, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion 509th Parachute Infantry at Mainz in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Sergeant Womer was Honor Graduate in both his basic and advanced individual training companies and Soldier of the Year in his unit in Germany. He was discharged in 1968 at the grade of sergeant.

Returning to college at George Williams College in Downer's Grove, Illinois, he earned his baccalaureate degree in 1970 and moved to Saint Joseph, Michigan where he began teaching high school social studies. Here he met a fellow teacher who had a fast moving career with the Michigan Army National Guard, Lt. Col. David L. Ratajik.

"Dave didn't so much talk me into joining the Guard as showing me how interesting it was by all the fascinating things he was doing," said Womer.

"After a drill weekend, we'd sit in the teachers' lounge and he'd talk about tank gunnery and armor tactics and what Soviet tank technology was doing. He'd be training for war on the weekends and I'd be mowing the grass," said Womer.

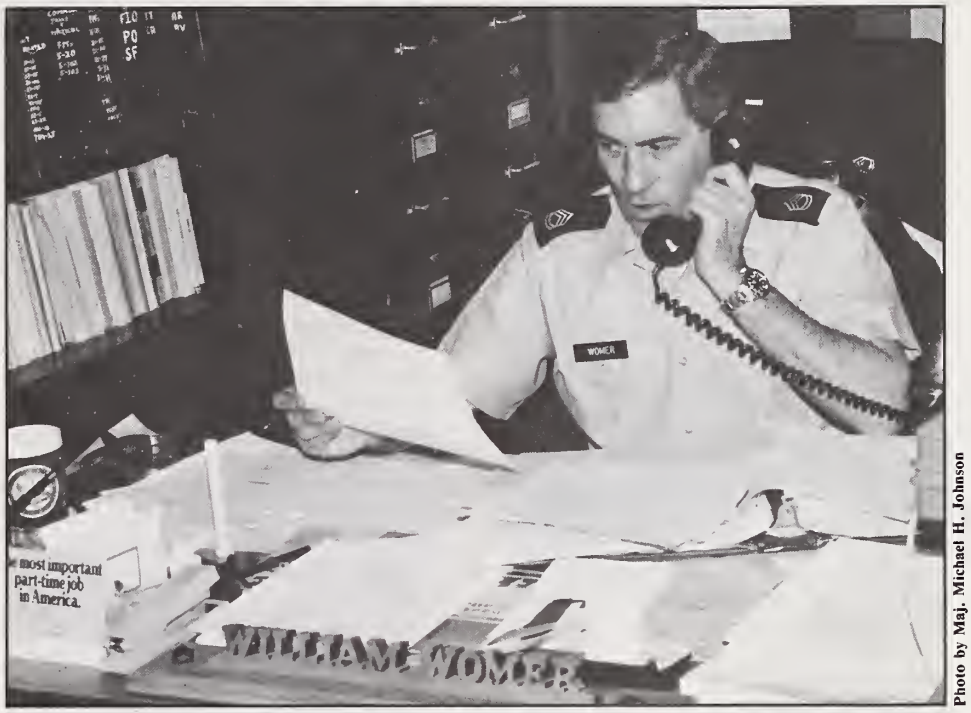


Photo by Maj. Michael H. Johnson

Sergeant First Class William H. Womer of Headquarters, 107th Supply and Service Battalion, works the administrative magic that got him named NCO of the Year by Fourth Army for 1987.

In 1980, after ten years at Saint Joseph High School, Womer joined the Guard and was assigned to Headquarters, 1st Battalion 246th Armor as a legal clerk. He enjoyed it so much that in 1983 he took a leave of absence from his school and went on a six-month tour as the National Guard Liaison NCO at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. This convinced him that a full-time military career was for him and in December of 1983, he accepted an Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) tour with Headquarters, 107th Supply and Services Battalion.

Answering the military questions from the NCO of the Year Selection Board was not too challenging for Sgt. Womer. Since 1980 he has completed 1,019 hours of military correspondence courses. Among them are the U.S. Army Pre-commissioning Course, the Special Forces Operations Course, the Advanced NCO Course, and the Equal Opportunity Manager Course.

Being an AGR Guardsman means taking the Army Physical Training Test twice a year. No problem for Sgt. Womer. He began competitive swimming at the age of six and for ten years coached his high school swimming team. In 1986 he attended and completed the Master Fitness Trainer Course at Fort Benjamin Harrison. At 45 years old, he graduated in the top quarter of his class.

Sergeant First Class Womer is the Personnel Staff NCO for his battalion. In this position he displays as much energy and innovation as he does in his civilian education (27 graduate hours), his military education and his physical fitness.

"It's hard to train a personnel section on drill weekends in the armory. Things are too familiar and routine. To get my section to think "war," I set up ARTEP scenarios for them to solve. One of them is "Death in Battle." I'll give them a map of our CAPSTONE location in West Germany and a problem. Say a soldier from one of our companies has died in combat. Now the section has to report his death, adjust the strength report, bury the body with appropriate ceremony, notify the family and request a replacement through personnel channels.

"All of this is done with real documents and forms and in real time. On Sunday afternoon, I'll get us together and review and critique their work. They love it. It's kind of like a Dungeons and Dragons board game," concluded Womer.

What a guy. It's no wonder why Fourth Army picked him as the Active Component NCO of the Year for 1988.

by Maj. Michael H. Johnson

What is the State Family Program and How Does It Affect Me?

The State Family Program (SFP) is the way through which the Adjutant General addresses the concerns and needs of the families of the Michigan National Guard.

During times of normal Guard activities the SFP will focus on ways to increase family knowledge of the National Guard and why the National Guard is so important. The State Family Program Office will also act as a referral service to assist families who are having problems.

When the National Guard is mobilized the State Family Program will continue to address the needs and concerns of the families; in addition it will also work to stop rumors and keep the families informed.

The aspect of the program that most families will be working with is the Family Support Group (FSG). The FSG is operated at the unit or community level and will work directly with the families of a unit or community. The FSG is the direct link from the family to the commander.

A Family Support Group is headed by two volunteers; they can be anyone interested or concerned about helping the Guard families in the unit or area. Usually this is a spouse of a Guard member. The FSG is the direct link between the unit commander and the families.

The FSG is not a wives' club, a coffee club or any other type of club, but it is designed to be a network whose goal is to assist Guard families in dealing with the stress of separation and the problems associated with it.

Within the next few months all National Guard units throughout the state, both Air and Army, will be establishing Family Support Groups. For further information on the FSG at your Guard member's unit contact the full-time support personnel at the Armory.

Some of the most commonly asked questions about an FSG are listed below along with the answers. Should you have a question(s) other than these, or about starting a Family Support Group, please contact the State Family Program Office at (517) 482-5527.

Family Support Groups

Q: What is a Family Support Group (FSG)?
A: A support structure for military personnel and their families, during periods of normal military life as well as before, during and after periods of separation (Annual Training, resident schools, mobilization, etc.).

Q: Who can belong to a Family Support Group?
A: All military personnel within a geographic area or in a unit and their families, retirees in the area and anyone in the community with an interest in the welfare of the Guard member and his/her family.

Q: Who is responsible for a Family Support Group?
A: It is the responsibility of the volunteers to ensure that an FSG works. The local commander is responsible to support the FSG and to ensure that his/her unit members are aware of its existence and what it can do for them.

Q: Is this just a variation of battalion officers' wives' club?
A: NO!!! *Rank has no role in an FSG* and can inhibit the purpose of the group. The FSG is not a social group, but is to be used as a support network for all National Guard personnel and their families to assist them in dealing with the stress of separation and the isolation incoming personnel and their families often feel.

Q: What are the goals of an FSG?
A: The goals can be many and varied, depending on the need of the family members in the FSG, but they all should strive to do the following:

- **Open a channel of communication between...
  - — the chain of command and the network
  - — members of the Support Group
  - — the FSG and the local services organizations
- **Reduce social isolation by...
  - — establishing and maintaining contact with all families within the area of the FSG

Q: Who is the leader of an FSG?
A: Many FSGs are led by the commander's spouse. This is *not* mandatory. The leader can be any person in the FSG, as long as there is an agreement among all.

Q: Is an FSG mandatory?
A: An FSG should never be mandated. The success of an FSG depends on the volunteers. People tend to give more freely of their time when it is requested and not demanded.

There is no question about it. An FSG must have the approval and support of the commander. It cannot function apart from the chain of command, since the chain of command can provide much information and logistical support. Accordingly the FSG also needs to support the commander.

An FSG needs to be developed more according to geographic area than along unit lines. For example, units in the same geographic area can work together to form one FSG or a family that lives closer to an armory other than the one at which the Guard member drills can belong to the FSG of the closer armory.

New insignia for retirees

Retired Army and National Guard personnel can now display their respected position through the wearing of a new shoulder sleeve insignia on their Army green uniform. The new red, white and blue insignia can also be worn on civilian clothing, such as jackets or caps, when the uniform is not authorized to be worn.

The new patch will be available through post exchanges for purchase by retired Army or Guard persons.

Detroit MP's Aid Easter Seals

The 14th Annual Easter Seals Telethon began Saturday evening, March 5th, and lasted for twenty-four hours. Detroit's WDIV, channel 4, hosted the event that was supported by volunteers from the 210th Military Police (MP) Battalion and its 1775th and 1776th MP companies who provided security and assistance to the fund raising event.

Susan Beauvais, Executive Director of Oakland County Easter Seal Society, reported that this year's drive topped last year's, raising a total of $1,245,879. Participation by National Guard members saved the fund raisers the cost of providing security. Some of the citizen-soldier MP's were there for the eighth and ninth year.

WDIV news anchor Mort Crim's words about the MP's were "Terrific...courteous and professional." That sentiment was widely shared. Mrs. Beauvais, noting that last year's drive was held during scheduled weekend training, remarked how delighted she was to have the MP's back again.

The battalion's training officer, 1st Lt. William Borman, having taken over the tradition of supporting this charity from Capt. William Coffman, was there for the first time. He summed-up the Guard's participation by noting that the troops provided security and kept everything moving smoothly in the right direction. Staff Sgt. Ronnie Curtis, Headquarters Detachment 210th MP Battalion coordinated the Guard's support along with Staff Sgt. Jerry Goode of the 1776th MP Company.

As a late Commander-in-Chief said, "Ask not what your country can do for you; rather ask, 'What can you do for your country?' " So without fanfare and television coverage a couple dozen sharp looking and competent Guard MP's, doing what they do best, aided their community in yet another way.

by Staff Sgt. James Skruggs

Success and Self-Discipline

Look at the people who have been successful in virtually any profession — from Athletes to Zoologists. Some are called "Talented." Others are called "Smart." Some are said to "Know the right people." And still others are "Lucky."

The fact is, all the talent, brains, "connections," or luck in the world won't get anyone anywhere for long (they won't last a long time) unless they have self-discipline.

Self-discipline has been called "the master key to achievement." With it Soldiers have the strength and perseverance to pursue and achieve any goal. Without it, goals might be set, but never met.

Helping new soldiers develop self-discipline must be a concern for everyone — commanders, N.C.O.s, unit administrators and others. Our concern naturally starts with each individual and our desire to see each soldier develop to his or her fullest potential into a happy, healthy productive soldier as well as citizen.

Our concern is a national one. In the debate concerning America's future, one thing must be remembered: our soldiers and the young men and women of this great country are the future.

It will be the self-disciplined soldiers, those who develop their thinking and reasoning skills, those who learn both tactical and technical skills, those who go beyond the minimum who will ensure that this country remains not only economically competitive, but free and democratic. We can't afford to waste the talent, creativity and potential of a single soldier.

Just what is self-discipline? There is a big difference between the way people define discipline and self-discipline. Discipline is imposed from the outside. It often involves training people to obey rules; it involves conforming to certain accepted standards of behavior. It is necessary and important.

But more important for success is self-discipline. Self-discipline grows from the inside. It involves good judgement, courage, ethical conduct, and a sense of personal responsibility.

It is more than just following orders. Self-disciplined soldiers follow rules of behavior because they have accepted those rules for themselves. Self-discipline involves the ability to weigh short-term interests against long-term goals. Self-disciplined soldiers do not conform to their peers, when doing so would violate their own codes of conduct or values. They practice and/or study to develop talents and secure knowledge.

Perhaps the more important thing to remember about self-discipline is that it enhances self-esteem.

Leaders can begin to teach their soldiers self-discipline the day they first meet. As most of us know the most powerful teaching is by example. Soldiers learn by what they see and hear you do. All the lectures in the world will not make up for the example we set. Leaders show their soldiers that self-discipline is important in many ways, when they are ready for formations a few minutes early, when they make a special effort not to be late for time windows on the training schedule. Start and stick with a daily inspection and/or p.t. routine. Enforce weight control and P M C S. Set priorities and act on them.

Recognize and praise self-disciplined behavior. Probably the most successful technique we can use to help our soldiers develop self-discipline is to establish orderly routines. Letting soldiers know clearly what is expected of them actually reduces the need for leader discipline while increasing self-discipline. We have all found that as a soldier's sense of self-discipline grows so does his or her ability to apply their talents and creativity. I think the word self-discipline is on every leader's lips during his or her career.

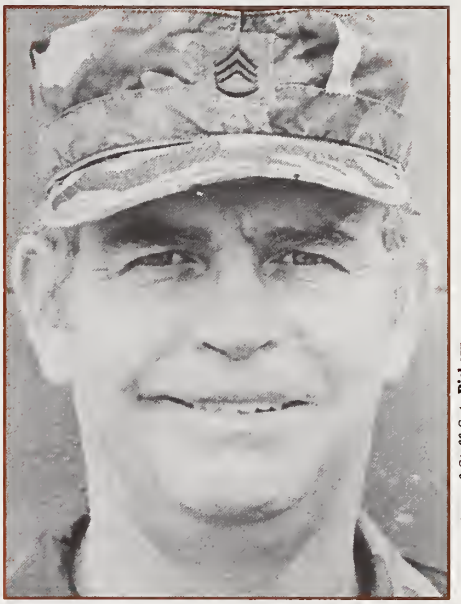


Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Pickern

The Disciplinarian: Staff Sergeant Laurance J. Pickern of Company D 142nd Engineer Battalion, Battle Creek, Michigan.

by Staff Sgt. Laurance J. Pickern

None For the Road; The Designated Driver Program

With spring in the air and a summer of fun just ahead, it is well that we review the Michigan Army National Guard's Designated Driver Program.

The Designated Driver Program has been established to reduce vehicle accidents caused by alcohol abuse. It is the epitome of common sense. If a group of soldiers decide to party, one should be designated as the vehicle driver for the group. That designated driver for the evening or party, does not drink alcohol as long as he is the driver. Simple. Black and white. The group has fun and they get home or back to post without an accident because one of them, the driver, takes the responsibility of remaining sober. During the evening, he drinks only soft drinks or coffee. The next time out, someone else has a turn at being the Designated Driver. This program is easy to implement in a military environment because we are structured to look out for the welfare of our people. And what makes better sense than getting them home alive by simply making sure the driver doesn't drink.

Photo courtesy of the Michigan State Police

This 1987 automobile accident resulted in two fatalities and was caused by a drunk driver losing control of his vehicle.

The Designated Driver Program has been endorsed by the club system at Camp Grayling. Alcohol servers have been encouraged to ask groups of two or more who are traveling by vehicle if they would like to designate one of them the driver for the evening. By agreeing, the Designated Driver may be rewarded with free non-alcoholic drinks for the evening and a discount coupon for food purchases at the club.

Common sense and caring. That's how the Designated Driver Program will Bring 'Em Back Alive this year.

by Maj. Michael H. Johnson

Catholic Chaplain at Selfridge

History was made in the 191st Fighter Interceptor Group in November when the unit swore in Captain Ron Reginald Williams as its first Catholic chaplain.

Chaplain Williams came to the unit from the Michigan Army National Guard where he served as chaplain to the 156 Signal Battalion Headquarters, Ypsilanti, Michigan. He served there for four years. He joined the Michigan Air Guard in order to have a more flexible drill schedule.

"Because of the nature of chaplains with congregations most chaplains serve one day during the week of the drill and the Saturday of the drill so that they can spend their Sunday with their congregation," explained Captain Williams.

Chaplain Williams will be joining Chaplain Michael Fonfara, the unit's Protestant Chaplain, to fill a long-standing vacancy for a Catholic chaplain that has gone unfilled partly due to the chronic shortage of Catholic priests. With the addition of Chaplain Williams new programs and greater ministerial service can be offered to unit members.

Though currently pastoring both St. John Berchman and St. Juliana churches in Detroit, Chaplain Williams has expressed his availability to privately counsel unit members should they need to discuss confidential personal problems.

When asked if working with a Protestant chaplain will be uncomfortable for him, Chaplain Williams replied that he has no reservations about his shared role.

"It's great to be able to minister side by side with a minister of another denomination. It gives me a chance to learn more about what they believe and practice," commented Chaplain Williams. "Working with chaplains of other denominations helps me to be a better minister, counsellor and Christian."

by Sgt. Tony Randazzo

Photo by Staff Sgt. Ed Williams

Colonel Gregory Maciolek, commander of the 191st Fighter Interceptor Group, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, welcomes Father Ron Williams to the "Six-Pack" Squadron.

Falcons to Fly at Selfridge

Congress has announced that the Michigan Air National Guard's 171st Fighter Interceptor Squadron of Selfridge Air National Guard Base will convert from the F-4D Phantom II aircraft to the agile and sophisticated F-16 A/B Fighting Falcon in mid 1990.

"It's a quantum leap in capability for us," comments Colonel Greg Maciolek, the Commander of the 191st Fighter Interceptor Group (the parent organization of the 171st FIS). "The F-16 gives us longer range, enhanced radar, and the ability to carry the new AMRAAM (Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile)."

As a member of the Tactical Air Command and North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) the air defense mission of the 171st FIS requires the unit to maintain a 24-hour alert status in defending the airspace of North America. The F-16 fighter-interceptor, which is capable of flying Mach 2 (twice the speed of sound), has a flight ceiling of 50,000+ feet and a range of 2,000 miles should complicate the job of any potential aggressors.

Another benefit of the aircraft conversion is that $6.98 million in Federal Defense dollars will come into the State of Michigan for military-construction at Selfridge to prepare the base for the conversion to F-16s.

The 171st FIS was one of seven Air National Guard units nationwide to be upgraded to the F-16 aircraft. The upgrades are part of a United States Air Force realignment which is modernizing the Air Reserve Forces and cutting the defense budget by reassigning and/or phasing out units and aircraft which do not meet projected defense needs.

by Sgt. Tony Randazzo

Photo by Master Sgt. James O. Tenney

This state-of-the-art jet fighter, the F-16 Fighting Falcon, will replace the F-4D Phantom in the 191st Fighter Interceptor Group in 1990.

Anatomy of a Mission: Operation Snowbird

Operation Snowbird, which was held at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base from 13 Feb to 27 Feb, was an exercise in teamwork for 120 Air National Guardsmen of the 110th Tactical Air Support Group from Battle Creek. With approximately 20 flying sorties a day, all personnel had opportunities to hone their skills.

The following semi-factual reenactment is compiled from interviews with pilot Maj. Juris Klovans, SSgt Marie Schatz from Intelligence, TSgt Rick Franz from Life Support and various maintenance personnel.

MISSION SNOW 51
24 February 1988

0945 — Maj. Klovans and the three other pilots in his flight arrive at the Snowbird headquarters at Davis-Monthan to check weather conditions, runway conditions and flight line-up cards.

Out on the flightline the FIELD MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL are inspecting the OA-37s. A crack is discovered in the aeleron of a plane that flew in the previous mission, putting it out of commission for the day. SHEET METAL PERSONNEL take the cracked part into their shop to construct a replacement.

1000 — Back in the Operations office the pre-flight briefing begins. INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL explain the hypothetical scenario that the pilots will face when they reach the range. The basic scenario is the same for all of this year's Snowbird sorties: Libya has invaded Egypt with Soviet support. The Americans have entered the war to aid the over-powered Egyptians. The pilots were given cultural and economic information about the Middle East area at the beginning of the first week, so they have a complete picture of the situation.

Today's scenario begins on the 15th day of the war. Many targets have been destroyed and the tide of the war has turned in favor of Egypt.

1030 — On the flightline the FUELS MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL are filling the jets' tanks with approximately 720 gallons of fuel. The canopies are being cleaned and the instruments checked. A pilot reported on the previous flight that his fire detection system did not test properly, so the ELECTRONICS MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL take the unit out of the panel for repair. Fortunately they are able to repair it on time for the mission.

1040 — The pilots leave the briefing and begin the last-minute inspection of their gear. The LIFE SUPPORT PERSONNEL help ensure their survival gear is in order and their parachutes are in perfect condition.

1100 — On the flightline the MUNITIONS MAINTENANCE CREWS are arming the OA-37s with four "Willy Pete" missiles each. The rocket launchers are first tested to ensure that they are carrying no electric charge, then the missiles are carefully inserted. Pins are placed into the launchers to prevent any accidental firing.

1125 — The pilots have now boarded their planes and are checking their cockpit equipment. Maj. Klovans has his ditty bag, containing checklists, an in-flight guide, maps and plotters, hanging from the instrument panel between his knees.

1150 — An external power unit is wheeled to each plane and plugged into the nose. This provides the electricity needed to start the engines without draining the plane's battery. The planes roar into action. As Maj. Klovans checks his other pilots on the radio, the jets prepare to taxi toward the runway.

1155 — The munitions personnel pull out the pins on the armaments, putting the weapons into the "hot" condition.

1200 — Take-off! Maj. Klovans leads his flight up to 8500 feet for the 30-minute flight to Gila Bend firing range. MAINTENANCE CONTROL records the take-off time on the boards in the control room.

1230 — The flight approaches the range. the FORWARD AIR CONTROLLER helps guide the OA-37s to their target area.

1235 — The first target, several Libyan aircraft parked at the southwest end of a landing strip, comes into range. As the planes approach, the OA-37s launch several Willy Petes at them. KABOOM! The missiles blast the hapless Libyan craft — target destroyed!

1240 — The Americans now proceed towards the next target, a Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) installation north of the airfield. The SAM comes into view, locked on target, KABOOM! The Willy Petes do their job again with devastating results.

The last two targets, both to the south, fall to the Americans' awesome firepower in similar fashion. The first is a truck convoy; its destruction prevents vital supplies from reaching the communist forces. The last is another SAM installation, put out of commission to help ensure safe passage for future OA-37 missions.

1300 — A mere thirty minutes later, the flyers, with the satisfaction of a successful mission in their minds, leave the imaginery Egyptian desert and head back to D-M.

1330 — Touch-down! The four OA-37s land and taxi to their waiting crews. The planes are guided by handsignals to their designated spots on the flightline, and static lines are attached to each plane.

1335 — As the maintenance crews begin the post-flight inspections, the pilots head into the Snowbird HQ for a debriefing.

1340 — "Boy, were we good!" exclaims Maj. Klovans as the pilots discuss the high and low points of the successful mission.

1400 — The pilots head off to prepare for their next mission as the rest of the 110th team readies the planes, plans and materials required to make every mission a success.

by Airman 1st Class Ed Avis

Photo by Dalkin

Wings Over the Kalamazoo. This was the right hand view out of an OA-37 Dragonfly as the fighter turned right base to Battle Creek Air National Guard Base after returning from Operation Snowbird in Arizona.

Battle Creek Guardsmen

Fifty-two Air National Guardsmen returned from Palmerola Air Base in Honduras after completing their annual training February 19 through March 6. They were from the Air National Guard Base in Battle Creek, MI.

Fifty of the Guardsmen were from the 110th Civil Engineer Squadron Prime BEEF (an acronym for primary base engineer emergency force) team, while the other two were a medic and the unit's public affairs officer.

The deployment was not without controversy. At least five groups protested the unit's deployment. Sign-carrying protestors greeted the Guardsmen at the front gate on the day of the deployment.

The flight to Palmerola was a long seven hours. After the C-130 (flown by the Oklahoma Air Guard) landed at Palmerola, everyone immediately disgarded their field jackets, since the temperature had reached 98 degrees earlier that day.

Palmerola Air Base is a Honduran military installation, and the home of the Honduran Air Force Academy. It is located approximately 10 miles from Comayagua, and 60 miles from the country's capital, Tegucigalpa. It is also the headquarters of Joint Task Force-Bravo (JTF-Bravo), consisting of U.S. military personnel who were responsible for the command, control, and supervision of all U.S. forces in Honduras, including the Battle Creek Guardsmen.

The Guardsmen, in the words of Lt. Col. Dale Franz, Air Force Forces Commander, "Hit the ground running Saturday morning."

The men had their hands full, with plenty of projects lined up by JTF-Bravo officials.

"Realistic hands-on training was the name of the game," according to Major Norman K. Ball, the Commander of the 110th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Ball continued, "Our initial focus was the base's new recreation building, which we finished on our tour. This building was very important for the base's morale, since it will contain ping pong tables, video games, arcade machines, card tables, an air conditioned music room, and a classroom. Adjacent to this building was the arts and crafts building, which we also finished."

At these buildings the Battle Creek craftsmen built decks, made and hung doors and shutters, built shelves and a counter, installed acoustical material, and did all the electrical work, including the installation of the power lines to the building.

Guardsmen from Pennsylvania began construction of the recreation and arts and crafts buildings six weeks before the Battle Creek unit arrived, followed by Guardsmen from Ohio, California, and finally Michigan, making it an exclusive Air National Guard project.

Another project completed was the Central American Tropical (CAT) hut, or better known as C-hut or "hootch." This facility will be used by the Air Force Forces Commander as an office and a briefing room. It was built from the ground up, and had been scheduled for completion by the next Air Guard team. Another C-hut was extended 16 by 24 feet by the unit's craftsmen.

The Squadron's power linemen relocated several power lines and, along with the electricians, installed electrical service to the Blackjack dining hall on the other side of the runway.

One of the more unusual projects was the after-hours construction of a portable cage for Alf, a North American river otter who was in bad shape when purchased by an Army helicopter crew from some Honduran children.

Alf, an endangered species, was later transported by commercial air to his new home at Sea World in San Antonio, Texas in the cage with the letters "ALF" and "110 CES" drilled into the sides. Welcome to the USA, Alf!

"Getting all this completed took long hours, but we're used to that," reported Chief Master Sgt. Gary Mason, who served as the unit's project manager.

"The Honduran trip provided us with very unique training opportunities. Most of my people had never before built facilities of tropical design, using this type of wood construction. They also had to work in intense heat, and were constantly aware of the need to drink lots of liquids and protect themselves from the sun," stated Major Ball.

Ball and his men also used the deployment for mobilization planning.

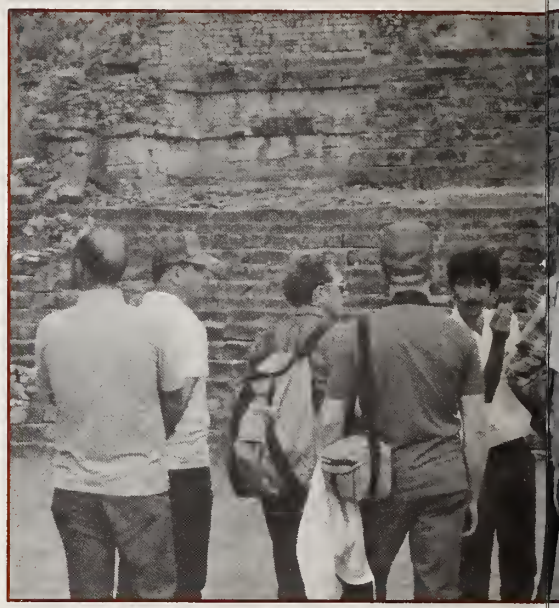
"This is critical in that the type of planning we did for Honduras is similar to what we would do if we were activated in a wartime situation," explained Ball, who also used the deployment to set high goals for his squadron.

"I believe that people will work to meet your expectations," stated Major Ball. "During this deployment we challenged our team members, and they have exceeded all expectations. Teamwork, that's what it's all about."

They did surprise a number of people on base with what they had accomplished. Colonel Charles A. Carlton, JTF-Bravo Commander, stopped by the worksites a number of times, and told the Guardsmen that he was pleased with the quality and quantity of their work.

The Guardsmen ran into several unique obstacles they had not encountered before. The most obvious was the green Honduran wood, which comes from the tall pines up in the highest regions of the local mountains.

"A typical two-by-four varied anywhere from two to three inches thick at the ends, and from four to five inches across, and



Guardsmen from the 110th Civil Engineer Squadron at cient Mayan ruins near Copan, Honduras during th

This Central American Tropical hut, or C-Hut, was Battle Creek, Michigan, during their annual trainin

that's the same board! Plus the wood is full of sap, which squirts out when you hit it," reported Tech. Sgt. Phil Landis.

Tech. Sgt. Dan M. Healy and his fellow Guardsmen also experienced another ever-present obstacle.

"The extremely hot weather sometimes makes the day long," reported Healy. "Plus the constant dust, dirt, and wind that never stops blowing."

The dust was so prevalent that Guardsmen were seen daily sweeping off their beds and sleeping bags. The spit-shine of their boots was impossible to maintain, since they too

Return From Honduras

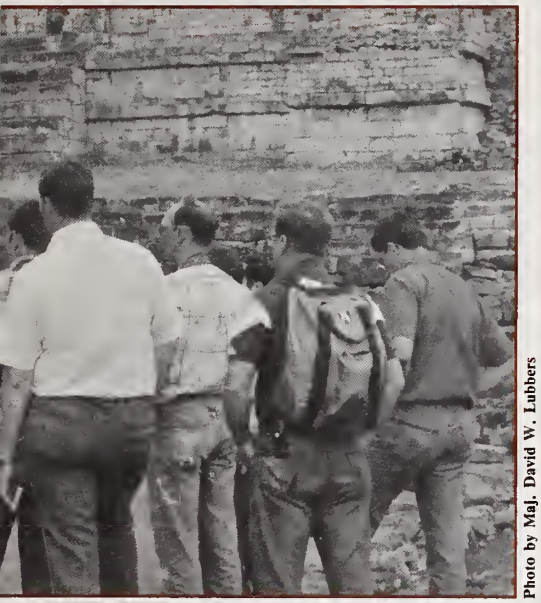


Photo by Maj. David W. Lubbers

attle Creek Air National Guard Base, view the an- morale weekend in Honduras.

Photo by Maj. David W. Lubbers

ilt from the ground up by the civil engineers from Honduras.

were covered by dust within minutes.

Another unique facet of the trip was the medical requirements. The men had shots and began taking pills for the prevention of malaria two weeks prior to departure, and will continue for eight weeks after leaving Honduras. Yellow fever, typhoid, and tetanus immunizations also had to be up to date.

But obstacles like these were overcome by the determination of the Guardsmen and the long hours they put in. After seven straight 10-hour days they were rewarded with a weekend off.

The "morale weekend" was a trip, at their own expense, to San Pedro Sula, the country's industrial center. Here the Guardsmen were treated to such "luxuries" as restaurants, carpeting, sheets and pillows on their beds, and flushing toilets!

Photo by Maj. David W. Lubbers

Technical Sergeant Thomas A. Bejeck of Midland, left, and Staff Sgt. Arnie Bamfield of Battle Creek, cut lumber used in construction of the new Recreation Center at Palmerola Air Base.

Photo by Maj. David W. Lubbers

Technical Sergeant Raymond L. Meloche, left, of Muskegon and Tech Sgt. Joseph A. Bruesch of Whitehall are building the steps to the Recreation Center at Palmerola Air Base.

Sixteen personnel also visited the pre-Columbian Mayan ruins in the village of Copan near the border of Guatemala. By 500 B.C. the Maya were already building a complex civilization, which reached its cultural peak between 300 and 800 A.D., when they erected their most ornate temples and cities.

"It was fantastic what they built without any modern day tools," observed Master Sgt. James W. Crumrine. "Especially moving those huge stones such a great distance." Other Battle Creek craftsmen admired the elaborate sculptures built by the Mayan craftsmen well over 1,000 years ago.

After the morale weekend it was back to the 10-hour days. The Michiganders finished their projects, but still found time to work on humanitarian tasks.

"It was our way of extending good will from the U.S., and especially our Squadron," explained Major Ball.

In addition to distributing over 1,200 pounds of clothing, shoes, food, and school supplies to an orphanage and hospice center (see enclosed news release), the men also built school desks and benches at night after completing their regular work day. They later delivered the 19 desks and 38 benches to Pablo Portillo elementary school, which is located in the nearby town of Comayagua. These desks and benches will be used by 76 students.

The morale and humanitarian trips gave the personnel the opportunity to see the country and witness first-hand the poverty that is so prevalent in Honduras, where the average income per capita is only $590 annually.

"I saw mud huts along the highway that were no bigger than eight feet by 12 feet. There were dirt floors, no electricity, and you could often see right through the buildings. Yet there was an entire family living there," reported Master Sgt. Jesse Ashley. He had been to Panama with this same unit 10 years ago, but felt that the poverty was much worse in Honduras.

By the end of the two weeks the Guardsmen were ready to go back home. A C-130 from the Arkansas Air National Guard flew them to New Orleans for an overnight customs stop, and then on to Battle Creek on March 6. There they were greeted by their families and friends, leaving behind a strong feeling of accomplishment, and taking with them memories that will last a lifetime.

by Maj. David W. Lubbers

The Consequences of Going AWOL

In terms of soldier lore, the condition of being AWOL, or absent without leave, and its consequences is one of the most misunderstood personnel concepts in the Michigan Army National Guard. This article will attempt to clearly explain what happens to a soldier when he goes AWOL, what his responsibilities are and what steps the Army Guard's full time administrators and unit commanders are required to take.

A normal National Guard drill weekend consists of 4 unit training assemblies, or UTA's. Each UTA is a four hour block of attendance and training.

The triggering device in an AWOL situation is noting the absence of a Guardsoldier at the first formation of the Saturday morning UTA. At this point, the soldier's squad leader or platoon sergeant begins telephoning the soldier's home, or if practical, visiting him to find out what the problem is. If there is no contact at all, a warrant for his arrest is made out and signed by the commander. Soldiers from the unit, or military policeman, then attempt to serve the warrant on the absent soldier during the drill weekend.

If this is not successful, the commander prepares either charge sheets for judicial punishment or a Section 15 for non-judicial punishment. The third thing that happens in this sequence of events in an AWOL situation is that the warrant is mailed to the Judge Advocate General at National Guard Headquarters in Lansing, Michigan for entry into the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) and lastly, a registered letter is sent to the soldier's last known address advising him that he is AWOL and that he has 15 days from receipt of the registered letter to contact his Guard unit and explain why he had missed drill.

Should the soldier respond within 15 days to the unit, by letter, telephone or personal visit, as to the reason why he missed drill, the unit commander must make a decision to excuse the absence or let the AWOL(s) stand.

The soldier will be notified of the commander's decision within 10 days of his response to the 15-day registered letter.

The Law Enforcement Information Network ties together police information by computer sharing of information on people wanted by the law for various offenses, such as being AWOL from the National Guard.

This means that if a Guardsoldier is stopped for a traffic or equipment violation, such as speeding or a burnt-out headlight, he might be arrested because his name on an outstanding AWOL arrest warrant appears on the police officer's LEIN system in the patrolcar.

When the Guardsoldier is arrested, he is charged under the outstanding arrest warrant, jailed and his unit commander is notified. Under the Michigan Military Code of Military Justice, the AWOL soldier could be tried by court-martial and if convicted, be sentenced for up to 100 days in jail.

A member of the Michigan National Guard cannot be AWOL for more than 8 UTA's in any 12 month period. If he exceeds 8 AWOL's, he will be processed for separation under conditions other than honorable and reduced to private E-1.

Some of the consequences of going AWOL for more than 8 UTA's and being separated from the National Guard under conditions other than honorable are these: He will never be able to enter any of the Armed Services without a discharge upgrade, a difficult process. If he is honest, he will list his character of service on job applications as Other Than Honorable, which means he will not be hired. If he is not honest and lies on his job application, he has given his employer cause to dismiss him. If he lies and a background check is conducted, his employer will not hire him because of his type of discharge. He will not be eligible for many Veterans Administration benefits. He will be ineligible for any kind of employment that involves law enforcement, security or any that require background checks. It will follow him around for the rest of his life.

by Maj. Michael H. Johnson

Some Things Don't Change

Taken from *Rules and Regulations of the Michigan National Guard 1911*

ARTICLE XVI
DESERTERS.

103. If a soldier, in time of peace, habitually absents himself for the period of three months from all drills or parades of his company, he may be considered as a deserter, and his commanding officer may make application for authority to drop the soldier from his rolls therefor.

104. When called into service in time of war, insurrection, disturbance of the peace, etc., to secure prompt arrest and punishment of deserters, commanders of companies will, immediately after a desertion, forward direct to the Adjutant General a descriptive list of the deserter, giving his place of residence, a full personal description, and any facts which may aid in his discovery and apprehension.

105. When in actual service any enlisted man absent without proper authority from his post or command for a period exceeding ten days, shall be considered a deserter, and if apprehended he shall be tried by a military court. An officer so offending shall be brought to trial by court martial, or dropped from the roll of the service, without honor.

106. When a soldier deserts, his immediate commanding officer will at once ascertain if any public property has been lost in consequence thereof and if so will at once prepare a list of the articles so lost and the value thereof will be charged against the deserter on the next payroll.

Bridge Over the Atlantic: Capstone Success

By capitalizing on our CAPSTONE affiliation, the 126th Public Affairs Detachment (PAD) has, in four years, built a bridge across the Atlantic Ocean.

Our CAPSTONE unit is the 1st Personnel Command (PERSCOM), based in a small town west of Heidelberg, West Germany.

Three members of our unit paid a visit to our CAPSTONE unit in the fall of 1984 while we were assigned to Overseas Duty Training (ODT) with another unit. During that meeting, our initial Mission Essential Task List was created. In the process, we began to familiarize ourselves with 1st PERSCOM's staff and its complex missions.

The PAD commander returned to 1st PERSCOM for a pre-annual training (AT) conference in 1985. We deployed for our first AT with the 1st PERSCOM in 1986. Two PAD officers returned to 1st PERSCOM in early 1987 as part of the Key Personnel Upgrade Program. Another officer returned for a pre-AT conference in late 1987. And, we returned as a unit in early March of this year to take part in Crested Eagle.

This yearly contact, plus a steady flow of letters and occasional phone calls, smoothed the way for the first AT and created a strong foundation for the second AT, allowing us to spend more time doing the job and less time learning the ropes.

Back in 1984, our CAPSTONE unit was nothing more than a cryptic designation on a computer printout. It was only through repeated contact and communication that a solid bridge was established, linking our small detachment to our wartime partner in Europe.

Photo by Spec. Mark Jones

Typical of German apartment construction, this building in Heidelberg housed members of the 1st Personnel Command, U.S. 7th Army during Crested Eagle, 1988.

"A reflective reading of history will show that no man ever rose to military greatness who could not convince his troops that he put them first, above all else."

– Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor

Photo by Spec. Mark Jones

Specialist Mark Jones makes the daily update on Armed Forces Radio during Crested Eagle 1988 in West Germany.

Overseas Duty Training with a CAPSTONE unit is ideal — it allows for training with wartime counterparts in a "real world" setting. Unfortunately, just getting to the ODT site, setting up and shifting into full gear can take time. If additional time is spent on orientation and coordination — which could have been accomplished earlier — valuable mission time is needlessly squandered.

We also found it valuable to record what we had learned and what problems we encountered. That allowed us to focus our training between ODT periods on weaknesses and problem areas.There is no doubt that when we returned to our CAPSTONE unit we were better prepared to immediately go to work.

During our two-week ODT in early March, we produced a daily bulletin for the exercise, radio spots for American Forces Network and in-service recruiting pamphlet. We also edited the host unit's welcome packet, produced a videotape of a command briefing conducted during the exercise and edited a videotape for use by the Michigan National Guard at Camp Grayling.

Much of this work was sandwiched around 12-hour, rotating shifts at the exercise site, where PAD personnel gathered material for the daily publication and were tested on their ability to respond to various "problems" that developed during the exercise.

Without prior coordination, we probably still would have completed our missions, but not as well or as smoothly.

by Capt. Carl Stoddard

The Michigan Air Guard Goes to War

The 107th Observation Squadron of the Michigan National Guard was activated for Federal service on October 15, 1940. At that time the squadron was based at Wayne County Airport, Inkster, Michigan. The primary aircraft of the unit at that time was the O-47A and B. Major Frederick R. Anderson was the commander.

After activation the unit moved to Camp Beauregard, Louisiana during the week of October 21-28, 1940. The unit used rail transportation for its equipment while most of the men drove their own cars.

When the 107th arrived they were greeted with a very discouraging sight. There was a small clearing in the woods that ran into the hills at the north end of the field and served as a runway. At the southern end of this clearing were a few old, deserted Civilian Conservation Corps buildings. The buildings were unheated, in shambles, infested with vermin and lice. The field was a veritable mud hole as there was no drainage system. The men from Michigan set about making the place livable and started their training.

On April 9, 1941, Lt. William Esler, Lt. Paul Smith and Pvt. Charles Yesalones took off in a O-47B. Shortly after becoming airborne, the aircraft lost altitude and crashed in the woods off the end of the runway. Lt. Esler, the pilot, was killed while Smith and Yesalones survived with numerous injuries. As a result, the War Department officially designated the airfield at Camp Beauregard as Esler Field. This field, still in use today, is the principal airport for Alexandria, Louisiana.

Through the remainder of the year the Michigan unit continued its training with deployments to Biloxi, Mississippi for gunnery practice and to Beaumont, Texas in support of war games. A build up of forces continued as it looked more and more like there would be involvement in the war in Europe. At Esler Field other National Guard units from Minnesota and Mississippi joined the 107th. These units became part of the newly activated 67th Observation Group. On December 7, the attack on Pearl Harbor answered the question whether the activation and preparation of these units was necessary.

On December 12, 1941, the group received orders to deploy to Charleston, South Carolina. This was not a training mission, and as a result the 107th Observation Squadron would earn battle credit for participation in the antisubmarine campaign along the eastern seaboard of the United States.

The 107th was not long involved in the antisubmarine Campaign. On January 30, 1942, the unit returned to Esler Field. The unit found itself in the forefront of the development of new doctrine and tactics that it and others would soon be employing in Europe. The old, lightly armed and slow multi seat observation aircraft needed to be replaced with more modern equipment. New aircraft began to appear on the flightline at Esler Field. Several of the more important aircraft experimented with during this period were the multi engine A-20 Havoc, and the single engine O-43 Lancer along with the P-51 Mustang. For the 107th the most important of these would be the Mustang which it would eventually fly in combat as the F-6 reconnaissance version.

In the summer of 1942, after 22 months of service, the 107th split into two contingents and began moving to the east coast for shipment to England. On August 31 the ground support echelon boarded the Queen Elizabeth under the cover of darkness, and departed for what was to be a five-day race across the North Atlantic. These were the days of German U-Boat activity and large, well protected convoys. The Queen Elizabeth was so fast she made the trip unescorted at a speed of over thirty knots. She docked in Scotland on September 6, 1942.

Original plans called for the pilots to fly their aircraft to their new location. Several changes of plans also required them to take ocean passage, but on a much slower convoy than the support troops. The air echelon arrived in Scotland on September 22, 1942. Both the air and ground support echelons were soon joined at their base in Membury, England.

For several reasons the next year and three months — September 1942 to December 1943 — was exasperating for the men from Michigan. Initially, the squadron lacked any aircraft. As this was the case it was assigned a support role for other units. Then, as aircraft became available, they were a series of different types, many of which were neither in the best of shape nor modern. Also morale suffered due to lack of American rations for the first year. Diet consisted of mutton, brussel sprouts and fried bread.

by Lt. Col. Mike Potochick — to be continued...

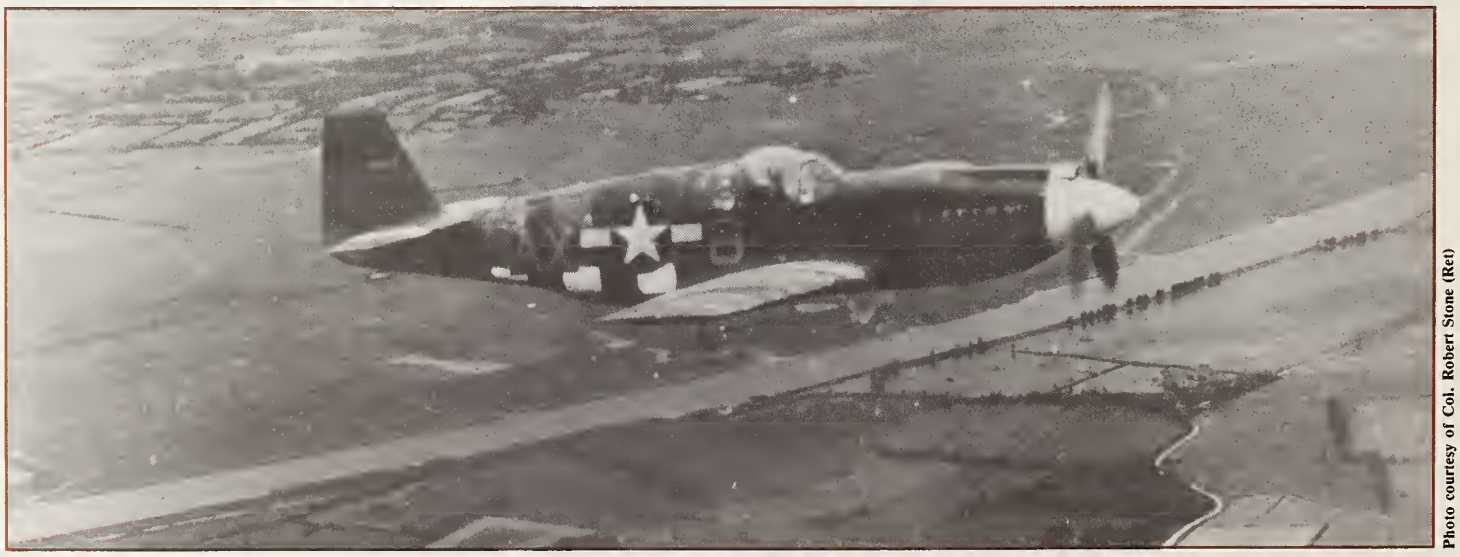


Photo courtesy of Col. Robert Stone (Ret)

This is the tactical reconnaissance version of the famed P-51 Mustang. This model is the F-6B of the 107th Observation Squadron, Michigan Air National Guard, that was mobilized for World War II. This aircraft is painted in invasion colors for the Cross Channel Invasion of June 1944.

Michigan Army and Air National Guard Promotions

Editor's note: The Michigan Army National Guard promotion list is generated from the Department of Military Affairs Standard Installation and Division Personnel Reporting System (SIDPERS). This issue carries Army Guard promotions from 9 March to 5 April 1988. The Michigan Air National Guard promotions are for the month of March 1988.

PFC

Adams, Sherry A.
Baker, Aaron G.
Bazany, Kevin L.
Boland, Lynn M.
Brown, William E.
Bursley, William T.
Carlock, Angela A.
Carlson, Todd M.
Cramer, Shawn P.
Dunckel, Brian T.
Ellis, David R. Jr.
Evans, Frank
Gensman, Peter J.
Gossett, John P.
Grim, Allen L.
Huskins, William R.
Imes, Timothy C.
Jones, Donna R.
Joyal, Martin J.
LaPalm, Daniel T.
Larocque, Caroline A.
Ledeur, Steven R.
March, Paul A.
McCloy, Richard F.
McIntyre, Mark E.
Meade, Kenneth F.
Montalvo, Augustin
Nummilien, Brand M. Jr.
Olney, Michael T.
Perry, Timothy R.
Phillips, Kevin R.
Pier, Ronald C.
Price, Wayne J.
Puzjak, Charles D.
Reed, Troy R.
Ringle, Jeffrey J.
Spring, Doyle S.
Stempien, Christopher M.
Tibbits, Jeffrey K.
Tinsley, Alan R.
Ward, William B.
Warner, Dennis J.
Wells, Benjamin F.
Wilkins, Michael
Yurgaites, Jeffrey A.
Zamora, Joseph A.

A1C

Meloche, Anthony G.
Owen, Tina L.
White, Shirley A.

SENIOR AIRMAN

Avis, Eduard B.
Bradley, April R.
Lafortune, Paul S.
McIntyre, Daniel D.
Smoke, Richard H.

SPECIALIST

Bailey, Tommy E.
Ball, Charles A.
Bloch, David M.
Buentello, James M.
Curtis, Mark A.
Danzy, Reginald W.
Eubanks, Kimberly J.
Gregory, Victor D.
Griffin, Lorrie A.
Harrington, Arnold L.
Harris, Kim D.
Henry, Fenwick R.
Iannucci, Yvan
Ivy, Tamika L.
Jennette, Jeffrey T.
Johnson, Ronald W.
Jones, Bernard
Lepish, Daniel F.
Matthews, Kenneth V.
Matyas, John E.
McCorley, Simone D.
McGrath, Cheryl A.
Moriarity, Gregory G.
Motiryo, Sadikifu
Otis, Janelle L.
Porterfield, Larry N.
Schoonard, Timothy L.
Sellers, Vivian A.
Simmons, Kevin F.
Taylor, Andrew A.
VanGuilder, David J.
Walker, Gordon N.
Weathersby, Kevin G.
Wilson, James C.
Wright, Nathan D.
Younk, Mary A.

SERGEANT

Bebee, Randolph S.
Bliss, Donald S.
Carpenter, Madeline M.
Clark, James L.
Contreras, Kenneth M.
Crossman, Curtis S.
Elmore, James T.
Garza, David
Godfrey, William S.
Griswold, Kim J.
Jennings, Anthony P.
Juidici, Martin A.
Kirbitz, John F.
Kopulos, Nick E.
Leslie, Tod L.
Manning, Danny K.
McDevitt, Kevin T.
Morgan, John A.
Panozzo, Larry J.
Parish, David W.
Parker, Richard L.
Perry, Robert M.
Phillips, Tammy J.
Robinson, Lester S.
Rogers, Kevin J.
Urie, Jack W.
Warren, Thomas W.

CORPORAL

Cay, Joan Elizabeth

STAFF SERGEANT

Adams, Dennis M.
Bailey, Robert W.
Beachnau, Charles E.
Brown, Robert E.
Bryant, Gary F.
Chamberlain, Steven W.
Coleman, Moses T. Jr.
Delvecchio, Francesco
Fairbotham, William H. Jr.
Farar, Jeffery R.
Grossman, David P.
Hetchler, Harry A.
Howell, Elliott M.
Jessee, John D.
King, Francis A.
Laprairie, Raymond J.
McMaster, Lori A.
Montrief, Dean T.
Negri, Kimberly S.
Paquin, Thomas E.
Ramos, Michael R.
Sandeen, Clark R.
Styers, Dale L.
Thorpe, Sharon J.
Unger, Dale G.
VanSlyke, James L.
Williams, Michael J.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS

Look, Donald L.
Smith, Paul W.

FIRST SERGEANT

Stephens, William R.

SERGEANT MAJOR

Barnes, James A.
Beauchamp, Christopher L.
Fisher, Jay E.
Nevison, Thomas J.
Roughley, John T.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER

Brummette, Richard I.

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Schultz, James C.

CAPTAIN

Reder, Clifford J.
Roberts, Mark J.
Soldano, Roger L.
VanWagoner, Clayton C.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Fletcher, Alan A.
Lozier, Jeffrey A.
Purcell, Gerald D.

The Bayonet Battalion

"What's the spirit of the bayonet?" "To Kill!"

"Thrust and parry right!" "Arrrgh! Arrrgh!"

The long remembered sounds and shouts of bayonet drill bring back memories of Fort Leonard Wood and long, hot hours in the August Missouri sun, thrusting, parrying and screaming "To Kill! To Kill" from dry, parched throats every time the instructor screamed the ancient combat infantry question, "What's the spirit of the bayonet?"

But this is March and it's near Grand Haven, Michigan and this is 3rd Battalion 126th Infantry, Michigan Army National Guard. Why are they doing bayonet drill?

According to the new battalion commander, Maj. Gary Krueger, it's their job. "The basic and ultimate purpose of infantry is to close with the enemy, destroy him and hold that piece of ground. The Spirit of the Bayonet is going to get that done when your unit is out of ammo and there's nowhere else to go but forward. That spirit, that killer instinct is what is going to get the infantry out of their holes and up that hill, following you."

Photo from 46th Infantry Division Photo Archives

This National Guardsman mans a check point with an unsheathed bayonet on his M-2 carbine during the 1967 Detroit Riots.

Photo by Maj. Michael H. Johnson

Third Battalion 126th Infantry's Chief Instructor of the Bayonet is Sgt. Jonathon Goree of Company A, Grand Haven, Michigan.

Major Krueger's chief instructor for bayonet drill is Sgt. Jonathon Goree of Company A 3rd Battalion 126th Infantry. Sergeant Goree joined Company A in June of 1984 and shortly after approached the company commander, Capt. George Chipman with a request, that he be allowed to integrate bayonet drill during drill weekends with other infantry training. Captain Chipman auditioned Sgt. Goree's bayonet training skills and agreed. Soon it caught the attention of Lt. Col. Lawrence R. Cox, then the 3rd Battalion commander, and soon all of the line companies were training in bayonet fighting.

The last U.S. Army company-size bayonet attack was made by Company E 27th Infantry Regiment (Wolfhounds) of the 25th Infantry Division near Soam-Ni, Korea on the 7th of February 1951. The company commander was then Captain Lewis L. Millett who retired from the U.S. Army as a colonel. In a recent article in the *Armed Forces Information Service,* he describes that action.

Reflecting on that bone-chilling day in Korea 37 years ago, Millett said, "We sharpened our bayonets with stones and started training the men - hour after hour, day after day. I told them our next attack would be with bayonets. As we approached the Gooks, they took off," said Millett. "But the next day, we had a helluva fight. I had about 100 men and they were about 300."

Splitting his men into three groups, Millett "ordered the 3rd Platoon forward, placed himself at the head of the other two platoons, and with fixed bayonets, led the assault up the fire-swept hill. In the fierce charge, Capt. Millett bayoneted two enemy soldiers and boldly continued on, throwing grenades, clubbing and bayoneting the enemy, while urging his men forward by shouting encouragement," reads the citation to Millett's Medal of Honor.

Captain Millett's leadership and courage inspired his men "to storm into the hostile position and use their bayonets with such lethal effect that the enemy fled in wild disorder...," the citation continues.

"From then on, I don't remember what happened," said Millett. "Looking back on it, some guys probably thought I was crazy. But I wouldn't be here today if all 100 men hadn't followed me up that hill."

Fighting alongside Capt. Millett in this Fourth Chinese Offensive of the Korean War was a young regimental commander who would sixteen years later in Detroit recognize the value of the bayonet.

Colonel John L. Throckmorton commanded the 5th Infantry Regiment during the Korean War and later, in 1967, commanded Federalized Michigan National Guard troops as part of Task Force Detroit during the Detroit Riots.

Lieutenant General Throckmorton was commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps when he was ordered to Detroit. In his After Action Report which was declassified in 1977, General Throckmorton said, "The sight of the unsheathed bayonets of the Michigan Guard had a sobering and quieting effect on crowds of people."

by Maj. Michael H. Johnson

Battle Books

Battle Books is a review of books of a general military nature. The opinions are those of the Editor of the *Wolverine Guard* and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Military Affairs.

The Forgotten War: America in Korea

Clay Blair's book, *The Forgotten War: America in Korea, 1950-1953,* is both a commentary and a narrative on the utter foolishness and criminal neglect that the U.S. Army was subjected to in the five years following World War II. The U.S. Army at the end of World War II numbered almost 7 million soldiers assigned to nearly 100 infantry, armored and airborne divisions.

In the space of a year and a half, the U.S. Army was reduced to 500,000, nine divisions, of which only one or two could be considered combat ready by any standard.

The four Army divisions in Japan and their supporting units were all understrength and poorly trained, due in part to restrictions on maneuver area, a philosophy that "we won't need infantry in a nuclear war" and of course the usual budgetry problems. One regiment, the 24th Infantry Regiment of the 25th Tropic Lightning Division was overstrength and had three full battalions. It was an all black unit and was the "catcher" for all black soldiers assigned to Japan during the years 1946 through 1950. The other regiments were held at a two battalion level.

When the Korean War broke out, these units were to bear the brunt of a well coordinated attack of North Korean troops supported by artillery, air power and the vaunted Soviet T-34 main battle tank.

The first few weeks were a tragedy for these soft, poorly trained and understrength units as they tried to hold the North Korean Army at bay, first at Osan, then Taejon, then the Kum River and finally at the Naktong River where a perimeter was finally, yet frailly forged.

It was along the Naktong where some of the fiercest fighting of the war took place that I first joined my unit, the 11th Engineer Combat Battalion.

We were typical of most battalions of that savaged Army of post World War II. We had a Headquarters Company, Company A and Company B, less the third platoon. As the fighting raged along the Naktong, engineer units were repeatedly thrown in as infantry to fill gaps in the line and these engineer-infantry units did well in combat. It is no small coincidence that three of the Korean War Medal of Honor winners came from combat engineer battalions.

Clay Blair's *The Forgotten War* covers the entire period of the Korean War but concentrates on that critical first year of the invasion, Pusan Perimeter and the breakout and the rebuilding of Eighth Army by General Matthew Ridgeway after the tragic death of General "Johnnie" Walker.

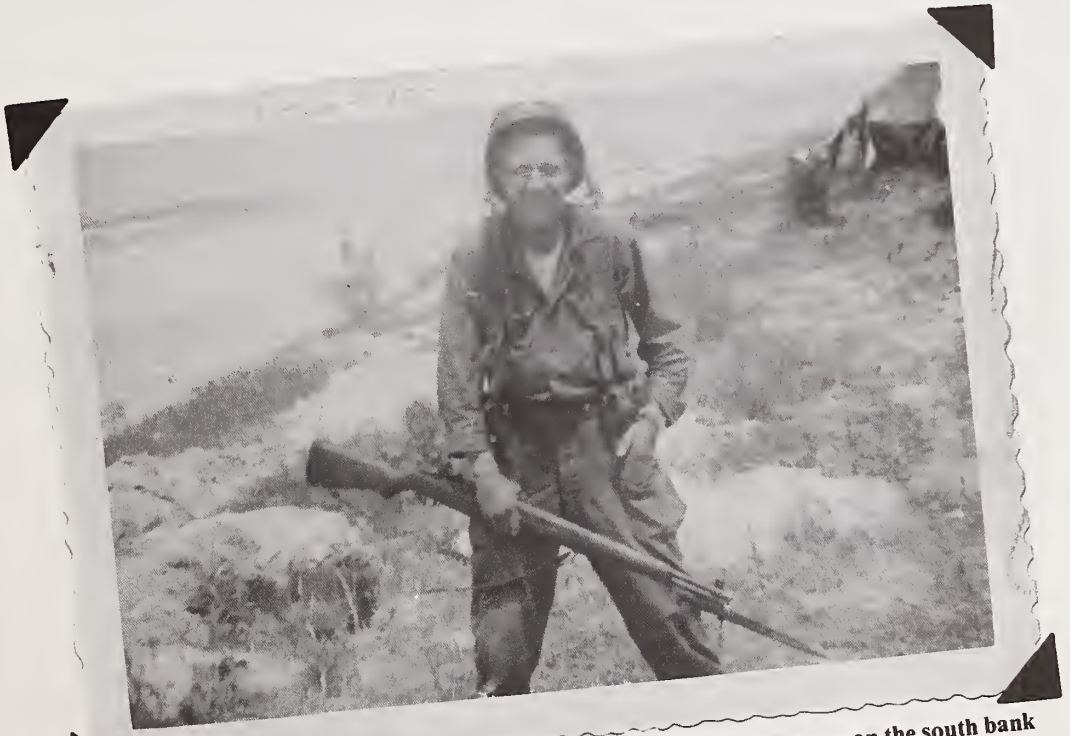
It is a study of battalion and regimental actions and details the biographies of battalion and regimental commanders in a most candid way. Most of the command selections of the Korean War were determined by the West Point and European Theater of Operations (ETO) "old boy network." It encompasses a wider spectrum of action than did S.L.A. Marshall's *The River and the Gauntlet* and *Pork Chop Hill* which were more deeply involved in recording platoon and company sized actions.

I believe that if one wanted an accurate assessment of this country's role in the Korean War, this is the definitive history.

Clay Blair's expertise to record for history the Korean War comes legitimately. He was the national security correspondent for *Time* and *Life* magazines during 1950 and through 1953 and as such reported on the war. Later, he wrote a biography on General Matthew Ridgeway that focused on Ridgeway's World War II years as a paratrooper commander. This work uncovered so much material about Ridgeway in Korea that *The Forgotten War* was written. To the relief of history.

The Forgotten War: America in Korea, 1950-1953. Clay Blair, Times Books, New York, 1987, $29.95, hardcover, 1,121 pages.

Guest Book Review by Staff Sgt. Jacob A. Johnson (USAF-RET)



Corporal Jacob A. Johnson of the 11th Engineer Combat Battalion poses on the south bank of the Injin River in South Korea in April of 1951. Note the fixed bayonet.

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The Spirit of the Bayonet

Photo from 46th Infantry Division Photo Archives

"What's the Spirit of the Bayonet?" See *The Bayonet Battalion* on Page 14 and *Battle Books* on Page 15.

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